

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Erich HARSCH *et al.* ) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned  
)  
Serial No. 09/ ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
)  
Filed: January 30, 2001 )  
)  
For: HORIZONTAL TRANSPORTING )  
SYSTEM )

---

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Cancel sheet 4/7 (which contains an improper Fig 4. The proper Fig 4 is on sheet 6/7).

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 3-9, 11 and 12.

Claim 3, line 1, change “and”, to --or --.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that a longitudinal movement and/or a lifting and/or lowering movement of the bearing slide (36, 53) for the crossmember (25) takes place by means of two parallel racks (19, 21, 42, 44) which can be driven, via gearwheels (18, 20, 41, 43), by stationary drives, in particular drive motors (16, 17, 39, 40).

5. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the 2 parallel racks (19, 21) are arranged horizontally.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the 2 parallel racks (42, 44) are arranged vertically.

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that two parallel racks (19, 21, 42, 44) or the like act jointly on drive gears (22, 23, 45) such that it is possible to set a lifting and/or lowering movement of a carrying slide (36, 51, 53).

8. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the gearwheels (22, 23, 45, 46) connected to one another via a common shaft (38, 47) are mounted in the slide (36, 51), and in that the gearwheel (22, 45) is fastened at one end of the shaft (38, 47) and gearwheel (23, 46) is fastened at the other end of the shaft (38, 47).

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the crossmember (25) is arranged pivotably and the drive (26) for the pivoting movement is fastened on the slide (36, 53).

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] any one of claims 1, 2 or 10, characterized in that the rack-gearwheel drive is replaced by a spindle drive with threaded spindle and step-down gear mechanism or toothed-belt drive with toothed-belt pulley.

12. (Amended) Apparatus according to [one of the preceding claims] any one of claims 1, 2 or 10, characterized in that movement-transmission means (49) is a toothed belt (49) with deflecting rollers (50), and the toothed belt (49) is firmly connected to vertical slide (51) via a fixed point (52) and to horizontal slide (53) via a fixed point (54).

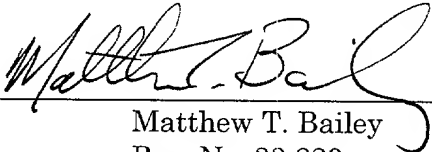
**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to put claims 3-9, 11 and 12 in proper form. No new matter is being introduced by this amendment and is respectfully requested that the above amendment be considered when the application is examined on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 30, 2001

**HOGAN & HARTSON LLP**  
555 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
(202) 637-5600  
**Customer No. 24,633**

By:   
Matthew T. Bailey  
Reg. No. 33,829